

THE UNDERLINE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Meg Daly, the board of directors, the founders and partners who have rallied behind the great vision of creating The Underline.

Located in my congressional district, The Underline is a 10-mile linear park, an urban trail that extends from the Dadeland South station to the Miami River and that will connect millions of Americans across Miami-Dade County through safe, alternative methods of transportation.

Mr. Speaker, this is underutilized land below Miami's Metrorail that has transformative potential for community mobility, positive economic impact, and enhanced quality of life.

Thanks to the overwhelming collaboration of our south Florida community, there are also many new ideas that will be incorporated in creating this vision, such as dog parks, yoga programs, street art, and pop-up stores. This Saturday, January 14, this recreational space will feature local artists, and the public will be able to experience art that inspires and challenges us to be healthy, mobile, and connected.

Congratulations to Meg and to all involved in The Underline.

REPEAL AND DISPLACE

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, for almost 8 years, we have heard about Republicans' plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. During that time, the House has voted dozens of times to repeal or defund ObamaCare; but now as Republicans prepare to take control of the White House, it is clear that Republicans don't have a plan to replace ObamaCare. Instead, they will repeal and displace millions of hard-working Americans, cutting them off from quality, affordable health care and making it even harder to get ahead.

The Republican repeal and displace plan will take away health insurance from 30 million Americans and will increase prescription drug costs, premiums, and out-of-pocket expenses for American families; and it will end health coverage for millions of Americans in order to give a huge tax cut to the richest Americans. Repealing ObamaCare will also cause a loss of 2.6 million jobs, including 12,100 jobs in my home State of Rhode Island.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear: the Republicans' repeal and displace plan is just wrong. It is time for Republicans to end this charade and get back to doing the people's work by partnering with Democrats to strengthen and improve the Affordable Care Act and stop

threatening all these harms on the American people.

SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to reaffirm this Congress' commitment to America's greatest ally in the Middle East, Israel.

Last week, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to object to the United Nations Security Council anti-Israel resolution. H. Res. 11 was supported by most Democrats and all but four Republicans. The House vote was prompted by the Obama administration's refusal to use its veto power to shoot down a U.N. resolution condemning Israeli settlements.

As I wrote in a recent op-ed: This U.N. resolution was one-sided. It failed to recognize that Israel is the only Jewish state and that it is fighting for survival every single day. This U.N. resolution will be used to justify the actions of those who want to wipe Israel off the map.

As I speak, we are still mourning Sunday's attack on a group of Israeli soldiers that left four dead and more than a dozen injured.

Mr. Speaker, I think most of us can agree that U.S.-Israel relations have hit a low point under this administration. When I first ran for Congress 4 years ago, I ran on a seven-point platform that included standing with Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I will not waver in my support for our friend. I hope the incoming administration sets a new tone in reestablishing America's alliance with the Jewish state.

In God we trust.

YOUR VOICE DOES MATTER

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is lots of incredible news out there. The Trump press conference just makes your head spin, but we have seen that the public's voice does matter.

Because of public outcry, within minutes after the late-night closed meetings, the Republican plan to gut the independent Office of Congressional Ethics was reversed. In response to outrage about jeopardizing health care for millions of Americans, some Republicans now admit that repealing the Affordable Care Act is not quite so simple and maybe they should come up with a replacement, even if they don't yet know how to do it. Senate Republicans even delayed some of the Cabinet confirmation hearings to allow a more orderly review and scrutiny.

Your voice does matter.

The President said last night that change only happens when ordinary people get involved, get engaged, and

come together to demand it. Obviously, these fights are just beginning, but the last 10 days shows that together we can and will protect the values and programs so vital to America.

DATA IS BETTER THAN PREDICTIONS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, whenever you see climate change in the news, remember the difference between actual data and exaggerated predictions. For example, much coverage was given yesterday to the predictions by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that polar bears now face extinction because of climate change. That prediction is contradicted by the evidence. The polar bear population has been increasing and is now around 26,000, probably the highest number in many years.

Climate alarmists want to scare people with extreme predictions. Better for Americans to look at the scientific evidence and discount the wild tales. Climate change has many causes and has occurred throughout the history of the Earth. Real scientists acknowledge this and are hesitant to make long-range predictions.

RECOGNIZING KRISTIN NICHOLSON

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is always difficult saying good-bye to a Member of our Hill family. When I was first elected to Congress, I sought a chief of staff who could work with me to help lead my team and shape my policy portfolio: someone who knew the Hill as well as the legislative process in Congress; someone who was smart, strong, and compassionate; someone with sharp instincts; and, most importantly, someone I could trust. I found all of those qualities and so much more in Kristin Nicholson.

As my chief of staff, Kristin has been a trusted confidant, adviser, and a true friend. So it is with both sadness and pride that after 16 years in my office I say good-bye to Kristin as she leaves the Hill to become director of the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University.

Kristin's leadership has been essential to me and my entire staff; and although we will miss her tremendously, she leaves behind a team that has benefited from her professionalism, passion, humor, and grace under fire.

Kristin, I cannot thank you enough for your service to me and the people of Rhode Island. Congratulations and best wishes.